

**NAHMA LEGISLATIVE ACTION: IRS and RHS Access to the EIV System**

**Please support language to allow USDA-Rural Housing Service (RHS) and Treasury IRS access to the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system in the FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations Bill and the FY 2009 Financial Services Appropriations Bill, respectively.**

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) EIV system is used for income verification in HUD's public housing and rental assistance programs.
- EIV is used to check tenants' reported income against Social Security (SS), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), new hires (W-4), and wage and unemployment compensation records.
- The income-matching program has already demonstrated an increase in savings to the program and an improvement in rental subsidy accuracy in a short period.
- However, the IRS and RHS are not a part of the interagency computer matching agreements needed to access EIV. Therefore, EIV cannot be used to verify tenant incomes for the Housing Credit program or Rural Housing rental assistance program.
  - NAHMA understands that RHS has already requested a statutory change to access EIV. The statutory change would allow RHS to use the SSA and HHS databases for income matching in its rural housing programs.
  - Without access to this information, housing providers may miss unreported income of IRS's housing credit or RHS' tenants due to inaccurate or incomplete information.
  - Granting RHS and IRS access to the system would simplify an owner or agent's job if they could use EIV for income verification for all tenants in affordable housing communities with mixed-financing.
- With so many families in need of assistance, it is in the best interest of public policy to ensure that the correct subsidies are provided only to qualified families.

**Therefore, we strongly support the inclusion of language to authorize USDA-RHS and Treasury-IRS access to the interagency databases in HUD's EIV System to verify tenants' income eligibility for housing programs administered by these agencies in the FY 2009 Agriculture and the Financial Services Appropriations Bills.**